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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 5 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea and its annex (S/1997/517), I have the honour to forward herewith the statement made on 26 June 1997 by the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It would be highly appreciated if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-30298 (E) 061197

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Annex

Statement made on 26 June 1997 by the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the issue that later became the subject of document S/1997/517

The Islamic Republic of Iran regards the assertions made by the individual in question to have no basis in reality. They are pure fabrications. It is incomprehensible to and unjustifiable for the Islamic Republic of Iran that the Government of Eritrea should find it appropriate to circulate such assertions as the position of its Foreign Ministry before seeking clarification and/or reaching a reasonable degree of certainty about the reliability of the assertions made by the individual in question.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that defusing tension and seeking peace and stability in that sensitive region is the first step towards securing the long-term interests of all States in the region. On the basis of its commitment to the objective of international peace, the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that it will spare no effort, on its part, to help bring about an atmosphere conducive to the objective of peace and security, when and if the States in the region are predisposed towards it.